

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04221 131456Z  
ACTION NEA-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /058 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4221

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT,IS  
SUBJECT: ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF JEWISH AGENCY COMMENTS ON THE  
UPCOMING JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY

1. HAROLD ROSEN, ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE JEWISH AGENCY, TOLD EMBOFF ON JUNE 9 THAT THE ANNUAL JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 23-27 IN JERUSALEM AND THAT HE IS VERY MUCH PREOCCUPIED WITH ITS PREPARATION. HE EXPECTS A RATHER LARGER THAN USUAL ATTENDANCE FROM EUROPE AND THE U.S. IN THE LIGHT OF THE DESIRE OF KEY JEWISH LEADERS TO GET A FIRST HAND IMPRESSION OF THE NEW BEGIN GOVERNMENT AND TO ESTABLISH PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH ITS KEY MEMBERS.

2. ACCORDING TO ROSEN, THE INITIAL ANXIETY OVER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE LIKUD VICTORY FOR FOREIGN POLICY AND RELATIONS WITH THE MAJOR JEWISH COMMUNITIES ABROAD, AND ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE U.S., HAS NOW BEEN REPLACED BY A KEEN COMPETITION AS TO WHO WILL BE AMONG THE SPECIAL AND PRIVILEGED CONTACTS BETWEEN THESE COMMUNITIES AND BEGIN. REPORTEDLY MAX FISHER, CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL, HAS BEEN IN ALMOST DAILY TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH BEGIN. MANY AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IDENTIFIED WITH THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 04221 131456Z

DEMOCRATIC PARTY, DO NOT WISH TO LEAVE THE ROLE OF SPECIAL INTERLOCUTOR TO A REPUBLICAN LIKE FISHER. NOR DO THEY WANT TO ACCORD THAT ROLE TO RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER, WHO HAD BEEN THE FIRST PROMINENT AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADER TO MEET WITH BEGIN AFTER HIS ELECTORAL VICTORY. IN ADDITION TO THIS COMPETITION AMONG THE AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS TO ESTABLISH PERSONAL

TIES WITH BEGIN, DAYAN AND THEIR TOP ASSOCIATES, ROSEN ALSO FEARS THAT, SINCE SOME OF THE AMERICANS ARE RATHER ASSERTIVE AND OUTSPOKEN PERSONALITIES, THERE COULD BE SOME PERSONALITY CLASHES WITH THE RATHER MORE RESERVED BEGIN.

3. AS TO THE ANTICIPATED ENTOR OF THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE FORTHCOMING JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY ON ISRAELI RELATIONS WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN THE DIASPORA, ROSEN EXPECTS IT TO BE ONE OF GENERAL CAUTION. THERE WILL BE SOME DISMAY OVER BEGIN'S CONCESSIONS TO THE NRP AND THE AGUDAH YISRAEL REGARDING CHANGES OF THE LAW OF RETURN AND RELATIONS WITH THE NON-ORTHODOX SEGMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, ON THE QUESTIONS OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS, HE EXPECTS THAT THE OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS WILL BE ALMOST CERTAINLY THAT THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES REMAIN COMMITTED TO SUPPORT ISRAEL REGARDLESS OF WHICH PARTY RUNS THE GOVERNMENT.

4. NEVERTHELESS, SOME UNDERLYING ANXIETIES ARE LIKELY TO EMERGE IN THE COURSE OF THE DEBATES AND AT PRIVATE MEETINGS. ROSEN SPECULATED THAT IF THE ANXIETIES OF THE MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS TOWARD THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT INCREASE, ONE POSSIBILITY MAY BE THAT THESE ORGANIZATIONS COULD BACK THE LABOR PARTY IN ITS EFFORTS TO RETAIN CONTROL OF THE JEWISH AGENCY AND THE WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION. THIS, HOWEVER, WOULD CONSTITUTE A BREACH OF AN AGREED FORMULA INSTITUTED BY PAST

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 04221 131456Z

LABOR GOVERNMENTS THAT THE HEADS OF THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS MUST COME FROM THE DOMINANT PARTY IN THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. THIS FORMULA HAD BARRED ARYEH DULCIN, A MEMBER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY, FROM SUCCEEDING SAPIR AS CHAIRMAN OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS. WITH ITS PATRONAGE BASE SERIOUSLY DIMINISHED AS A RESULT OF ITS ELECTORAL DEFEAT, THE LABOR PARTY IS NOW PLANNING A CAREFUL LOBBYING CAMPAIGN, ESPECIALLY IN THE U.S., TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR ITS EFFORTS TO RETAIN CONTROL OF THE AGENCY. THE FACT THAT IT WILL NOW BE ABLE TO OFFER SOME PRESTIGIOUS AND EXPERIENCED CANDIDATES MAY GIVE IT SOME ADVANTAGE IN THIS DRIVE.

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## Message Attributes

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